

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) An interactive, multi-user media delivery system comprising:
 - a) at least two portable media storage mediums, each of said portable storage mediums at least containing a substantially identical copy of a particular media selection;
 - b) at least two media players structured to selectively deliver said media selection to a user from a corresponding one of said portable storage mediums;
 - c) each of said media players including a control assembly structured to selectively control and regulate delivery of said media selection to the user;
 - d) at least one of said media players being selectively designatable as a slave unit;
 - e) a master control assembly operatively associated with said media players;
 - f) a connectivity assembly structured to establish a communicative link at least between said slave unit and said master control assembly;
 - g) said master control assembly structured to receive synchronization data of said media selection from each of said media players at commencement of delivery of said media selection, said synchronization data including a title and location designator associated with said media selection ; and
 - h) said master control assembly structured to periodically poll each of said media players to receive further synchronization data from each of said media players and to simultaneously and uniformly ~~control~~ synchronize said delivery of said media selection by said media players based on said polled and received synchronization data.

2. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 1 wherein said control assembly of one of said media players defines said master control assembly.

3. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 1 wherein said at least two media players include a plurality of said media players communicatively associated with at least said master control assembly via said connectivity assembly.

4. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 3 wherein said control assemblies of said plurality of said media players may selectively define said master control assembly.

5. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 3 wherein only one of said control assemblies of said plurality of said media players may define said master control assembly at one time.

6. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 1 including a plurality of said media players designated as slave units.

7. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 6 wherein said master control assembly is structured to provide selective control authority over all of said slave units to a select one of said slave units.

8. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 1 wherein said storage mediums include digital storage mediums.

9. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 8 wherein said digital storage mediums include any digital storage medium containing standard playback encoding.

10. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 1 including a plurality of said media players designated as slave units and each of said media players including said storage mediums with said media selection.

11. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 1 wherein said connectivity assembly includes a computerized network connection.

12. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 1 wherein each of said media players includes said connectivity assembly structured to establish said communicative link with a computerized network.

13. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 1 further comprising a messaging assembly operatively associated with each of said media players, said messaging assembly structured to permit selective messaging

communication to users of said media players while said media selection is being delivered to said users.

14. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 13 wherein said messaging assembly is structured to facilitate said selective messaging communication initiated by an operator of said master control assembly.

15. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 13 wherein said messaging assembly is structured to facilitate said selective messaging communication initiated by said users of said media players.

16. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 13 wherein said messaging assembly includes a messaging interface operatively associated therewith and structured to receive a message for communication to at least one of said media players.

17. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 16 wherein each of said media players includes said messaging interface.

18. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 13 wherein said messaging assembly is structured to permit selective communication of a message to at least a select one of said media players.

19. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 13 wherein said messaging assembly includes a communication shell associated with a delivery of a message to said user of each of said media player.

20. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 19 wherein said communication shell is structured to deliver promotional materials to said user in association with said message.

21. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 20 wherein said communication shell includes a messaging display structured to be displayed on a monitor associated with each of said media player, said messaging display including said promotional materials and said message.

22. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 19 wherein said communication shell includes at least one interactive link, said messaging assembly including a messaging interface structured to permit selective activation of said interactive link by said user.

23. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 22 wherein said interactive link is structured to initiate delivery of additional materials to said user when activated.

24. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 22 further comprising a master processor assembly communicatively associated with said media players and structured to receive activation information associated with user activation of said interactive link from said messaging assembly of a particular media player.

25. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 24 wherein said interactive link includes a plurality of interactive links, each of said interactive links representing a user response to a query.

26. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 24 wherein said master processor assembly is structured to receive and process said activation information from a plurality of said media players.

27. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 26 wherein said master processor assembly is responsive to said activation information from said plurality of said media players and is structured to communicate instructions to said master control assembly in connection therewith.

28. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a communication shell structured to deliver promotional materials to said user in association with said media selection.

29. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 13 wherein said messaging assembly includes a text messaging assembly structured to communicate a message visibly utilizing a monitor associated with said delivery of said media selection.

30. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 13 wherein said messaging assembly includes an audio messaging assembly structured to communicate a message audibly utilizing an audio system associated with each of said media player.

31. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 13 wherein said messaging assembly includes a video messaging assembly structured to communicate a message visibly utilizing a monitor associated with said delivery of said media selection.

32. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 1 further comprising a communication shell structured to deliver promotional materials to said user in association with said media selection.

33. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 1 wherein said synchronization data includes a title of said media selection.

34. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 1 wherein said synchronization data includes a location designator associated said media selection.

35. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 34 wherein said location designator includes a time code of said media selection.

36. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 34 wherein said location designator includes a track number of said media selection.

37. (Withdrawn) To deliver a media selection from a media storage medium, an enhanced media player comprising:

- an input assembly structured to receive the media storage medium;

- an output assembly structured to facilitate delivery of the media selection to the user;

- a delivery assembly, said delivery assembly including a media decoder and a control assembly;

- said media decoder structured to deliver the media selection from said storage medium via said output assembly;

- said control assembly structured to control a delivery of said media selection by said media decoder;

- a connectivity assembly structured to at least temporarily, communicatively associate said delivery assembly with a remote master control assembly; and

said delivery assembly being structured to at least temporarily permit the remote master control assembly to control said delivery of said media selection by said media decoder.

38. (Withdrawn) An enhanced media player as recited in claim 37 wherein said delivery assembly is structured to communicate synchronization data related to the media selection to said master control assembly.

39. (Withdrawn) An enhanced media player as recited in claim 37 further comprising a messaging assembly structured to permit selective messaging communication to and from a user of the media player.

40. (Withdrawn) An enhanced media player as recited in claim 39 wherein said messaging assembly is structured to deliver a message to the user in connection with said delivery of said media selection.

41. (Withdrawn) An enhanced media player as recited in claim 39 further comprising a messaging interface structured to receive a message for remote communication utilizing said connectivity assembly.

42. (Withdrawn) To deliver a media selection from a media storage medium, an enhanced media player comprising:

an input assembly structured to receive the media storage medium;

an output assembly structured to facilitate delivery of the media selection to the user;

a delivery assembly, said delivery assembly including a media decoder and a control assembly;

said media decoder structured to deliver the media selection from said storage medium via said output assembly;

said control assembly structured to control a delivery of said media selection by said media decoder;

a connectivity assembly structured to at least temporarily, communicatively associate said delivery assembly with a remote master control assembly; and

a messaging assembly structured to permit selective messaging communication to and from a user of the media player utilizing said connectivity assembly.

43. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a central authority structured to receive an identifier for said media selection on each of said portable storage mediums from each of said media players and to verify that each media selection is an authorized copy based on the received identifier, wherein upon verification, each of said media players having an authorized media selection is enabled to participate in said system.

44. (Currently amended) An interactive, multi-user media delivery system comprising:

at least two removable media storage mediums, each of said removable storage mediums at least containing a substantially identical copy of a particular media selection;

at least two media players structured to selectively deliver said media selection to a user from a corresponding one of said removable storage mediums;

each of said media players including a control assembly structured to selectively control and regulate delivery of said media selection to the user;

at least one of said media players being selectively designatable as a slave unit;

a master control assembly operatively associated with said media players;

a connectivity assembly structured to establish a communicative link at least between said slave unit and said master control assembly;

said master control assembly structured to receive synchronization data of said media selection from each of said media players at commencement of delivery of said media selection, said synchronization data including a title and location designator associated with said media selection;

said master control assembly structured to periodically poll each of said media players to receive further synchronization data from each of said media players and to simultaneously and uniformly ~~control~~ synchronize said delivery of said media selection by said media players based on said polled and received synchronization data; and

a messaging assembly operatively associated with each of said media players, said messaging assembly structured to permit selective messaging communication initiated by said users to said users of said media players while said media selection is being delivered to said users.

45. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 44, wherein each of the at least two removable media storage mediums is a conventional optical storage medium.

46. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 45, further comprising a central authority structured to receive an identifier for said media selection on each of said optical storage mediums from each of said media players and to verify that each media selection is an authorized copy based on the received identifier, wherein upon verification, each of said media players having an authorized media selection is enabled to participate in said system.

47. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 44 wherein said messaging assembly includes a text messaging assembly structured to communicate a message visibly utilizing a monitor associated with said delivery of said media selection.

48. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 47 wherein said messaging assembly includes an audio messaging assembly structured to communicate a message audibly utilizing an audio system associated with each of said media player.

49. (Previously presented) The interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited in claim 48 wherein said messaging assembly includes a video messaging assembly structured to communicate a message visibly utilizing a monitor associated with said delivery of said media selection.